

ANN KIRKPATRICK
1ST DISTRICT, ARIZONA

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FCC Mail Room

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Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554-0005

Chairman Wheeler,

As the U.S. Representative for Arizona's District One, I write to lend my support to Navajo Pillars Telecommunications, Inc. (NPT), a minority-owned business that is applying for Eligible Telecommunication Carrier designation. NPT submitted a petition to the FCC in September 2013, and I encourage you to carefully consider the request.

Telecommunications infrastructure is critical to a stable economy and is long overdue in the most remote areas of my district. Without access to telecommunications, rural areas face significant barriers to economic development and educational and health-care resources.

NPT plans to deploy a telecommunications network in an area of the Navajo Nation where broadband service has never been made available, namely the Smoke Signal and Blue Gap Chapter House. The ETC designation will enable NPT to receive financial support from the FCC's universal service program and make them eligible to apply for a loan from the USDA's Rural Utilities Service.

My vision for Arizona's 1st Congressional District is a diversified, stable economy – and telecommunications is an integral part of this. We need to ensure that struggling rural communities are able to expand access for their residents, schools, health-care providers and businesses. I urge your cooperation in designating NPT for ETC status.

Sincerely,



The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. Representative, Arizona District One



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2014

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
U.S. House of Representatives
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick:

Thank you for your letter supporting the pending petition by Navajo Pillars Telecommunications, Inc. (NPT), for designation as an eligible telecommunications carrier (ETC). NPT has also filed for a waiver of several related rules, including a waiver of the definition of the "Study Area" boundary rules codified in part 36 of the Commission's rules. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

On October 30, 2013, the Commission's Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) released a Public Notice seeking comment on NPT's petition and related waivers. Most petitions for study area waiver are routine in nature and granted as filed without modification under the Commission's streamlined procedures that were created specifically to address routine study area waivers. Given the complexities of the issues raised in NPT's petition, however, the Bureau found it should be subject to further analysis. The petition and waiver requests are currently under review, and I can assure you that the Bureau is making every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler